

Charles Siegler

Spiritual Formation

Dr. Walborn

10 November 2020

Reflections on God's Presence #2

In this paper I want to focus on a couple of different experiences I had while doing my meditations these past few weeks. As you know, a couple of times I have meditated outside, one time in my backyard and another time in a local park near a stream that I often admire. These experiences made me appreciate God's presence in nature. I reflected on the changing of the seasons as a symbol of the times in our lives and how God provides for all His creatures by giving us the warmth of the sunlight and food to eat. Of course, I could only do this when the weather was good. On one day when I planned to do my reading and meditation, I woke up to a rainy day. This was after weeks of beautiful fall weather. Of course, I couldn't choose to do my meditation outside as I had the past couple of times. But the rain also gave me an opportunity to reflect on God's plan for us.

Although I was disappointed in the rain, I started to think about how God knows what we need. The weeks of sun had dried out the grass. As I thought about it, I realized that the rain might be a disappointment to me, but it was important to the plants which were dry and the animals which depended on rain for drinking water and the fish which live in my favorite stream. Nature needs both sun and rain. In our lives we must experience both sun and rain, joy and sadness. Both of these feelings bring us closer to God. We can be thankful to Him when there is joy in our lives and look to Him for comfort in times of sadness. It is only by having both of these feelings that we can have a full life.

The other thing that I've been thinking about a lot is the role of music in my relationship with God. My first exposure to live music was in church (which I attended since I was only months old). As you know, God has given me great musical gifts and I feel that I should honor Him by using these gifts to praise Him. I feel His inspiration when I sit at the piano or organ or when I compose. I want to use these gifts to inspire others. I thought a lot about how to do this. I realized that I can play music in church, but I can also use my gifts to tell the story of hope. I am working on a piece about Stephen Hawking who overcame great suffering to accomplish wonderful things. His life shows that with God by our side, we can overcome adversity. I think meditating on this inspired me to continue with my piece and also to think about working on some pieces to play in church to share with my congregation.

Spending time in silence definitely gave me room in my life to think about God's role in my life and plan for me. Our world is so noisy with the internet, and TV, and videogames, etc. that finding room to think quietly is difficult. I appreciated this assignment because it forced me to take the time to think.